

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 15-17, amend claims 4, 6-8, 13 and 18-20, and add new claims 21 and 22 in accordance with the following listing showing the status of all claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method for enabling at least one internal business process that uses a first data representation and that includes at least one activity that involves a trading partner to communicate with the trading partner through an interaction standard comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving a message having the first data representation from the internal business process; and
- b) automatically converting the message having the first data representation into a corresponding message having the communication format specified by the interaction standard.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

- c) receiving a message in the communication format from the trading partner; and
- d) automatically converting the received message having the communication format specified by the interaction standard into a corresponding message having the first data representation.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the interaction standard is one of a peer-to-peer (P2P) standard and a business-to-business (B2B) standard.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein the interaction standard is one of RosettaNet and the Common Business Library (CBL) business-to-business (B2B) interaction standards.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the internal business process includes at least one workflow.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of automatically converting the message having the first data representation into a corresponding message having the communication format specified by the interaction standard includes:

retrieving a service definition;

retrieving a mark-up language document template; and

preparing a mark-up language message that is based on the mark-up language document template.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of automatically converting the received message having the communication format specified by the interaction standard into a corresponding message having the first data representation includes

retrieving at least one extensible-markup query language (XQL) query; and

executing the XQL query to extract the data from the reply.

8. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a) an internal business process that ~~includes~~ uses a first data representation;

b) an interaction standard ~~for specifying~~ that specifies a communication format for communication between the internal business process and at least one trading partner; and

c) a trading partner conversation manager ~~for managing~~ that manages conversation between the internal business process and the trading partner by performing format conversion between the first data representation and the interaction standard.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the trading partner conversation manager automatically converts messages having the first data representation into corresponding messages having the communication format specified by the interaction standard.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the trading partner conversation manager automatically converts messages having the communication format specified by the interaction standard into corresponding messages having the first data representation.

11. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the trading partner conversation manager automatically maps a first message with the first data representation into a corresponding first message in the communication format, and automatically maps a second message in the communication format into a corresponding second message in the first data representation.

12. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the interaction standard is one of a peer-to-peer (P2P) standard and a business-to-business (B2B) standard.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the interaction standard is one of RosettaNet and the Common Business Library (CBL) business-to-business (B2B) interaction standards.

14. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the internal business process includes at least one workflow.

15-17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 ~~wherein the step of performing inbound communication processing 2~~ wherein the step of automatically converting the received message having the communication format specified by the interaction standard into the corresponding message having the first data representation includes the steps of

- retrieving a service name and extensible-markup query language (XQL) queries;
- parsing the request and extracting data;
- starting the service and passing data;
- obtaining service results;
- retrieving an extensible markup language (XML) template;
- preparing an XML response;
- sending the XML message; and
- returning control to ~~the~~ a workflow server.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 ~~wherein the step of performing outbound communication processing~~ 1 wherein the step of automatically converting the message having the first data representation into the corresponding message having the communication format specified by the interaction standard includes the steps of

- retrieving a service definition;
- retrieving an extensible markup language (XML) template;
- preparing an XML response; and
- sending the XML message.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of ~~performing outbound communication processing~~ automatically converting the message having the first data representation into the corresponding message having the communication format specified by the interaction standard further includes the steps of

- determining if a response is expected;
- when a response is not expected, returning control to ~~the~~ a workflow server;
- when a response is expected, waiting for the response, retrieving a service name and extensible-markup query language (XQL) queries, parsing the response and extracting data, and returning control to the workflow server.

21. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the interaction standard defines syntax for message exchanges and flow of interactions among business processes.

22. (New) The system of claim 8 wherein the interaction standard defines syntax for message exchanges and flow of interactions among business processes.